

600 Baptist student leaders train at Gulfshore Assembly

By Tim Nicholas

"Be flexible and pray a lot," was the most quoted advice given to 90 student summer missionaries during orientation on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Weaver McCracken, associate in the Department of Student Work, which sponsors BSU, attributed the quotation to Frank Gunn Jr., a staffer at First Church, Pascagoula, who aided in orientation.

The students were commissioned at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly during the Spring Leadership Training Conference for Mississippi Baptist Student Union. The weekend meeting attracted about 600 students and nearly 200 parents of the summer missionaries.

Said McCracken in his charge to the student missionaries: "You will work alongside missionaries from other states. You will undoubtedly see great variation in levels of commitment to mission service. But we have great confidence in you because you have come from Mississippi BSUs and they're the best."

McCracken added that in being flexible and praying a lot, "you make your life and will open and sensitive

to God's purposes for you this summer."

The 90 summer missionaries will work alongside home and foreign career missionaries. All of their expenses are being paid by fellow students who are raising approximately \$100,000 for the efforts.

Another speaker, Ken Smith, a Mississippian who is now pastor of First Church, Pompano Beach, Fla., talked about how Baptist students can make a difference in the lives of others.

"If there's ever been a time the kingdom of God needed to manifest itself in the life of the believer, it is now," he said.

Referring to the biblical story in Luke 5 of Jesus recruiting the fishermen as disciples, Smith said that "the commonplace was the beginning of holy work." He said that the call of God in our world "was not on a stained glass building, but on a fish-smelling place."

Smith said that when the fishermen left their nets (which were full of fish) they left everything. "Not 10 percent, not 40 percent," said Smith.



Ken Smith

Speaker Victor Davis, director of black church relations with the Foreign Mission Board, recounted a story of the violinist Izzak Perlman playing what the audience thought was a Stradivarius violin, worth thousands of dollars.

In the middle of his concert, he smashed it to pieces. Then Perlman told the crowd it was a cheap violin and produced the Stradivarius which sounded no different than the first.

Said Davis, quoting Perlman, "The melody isn't in the instrument, but in the hands and heart of him who plays it."

Davis challenged the students to "put yourselves in God's hands that he may equip and empower us."

Lloyd Luncford, missionary to Taiwan, spoke of the availability of the world here in the United States. He said that there are 25,000 students in the States from both Taiwan and from mainland China.

"Missions isn't a matter of geography, it's a matter of your heart," said Luncford.

Nicholas is director, Office of Communication, MBCB.



Pictured are some of the commissioned summer missionaries with symbols of their service — towels.

Critical needs cited for acceptance of bivocational ministers in SBC

By Chip Alford

NASHVILLE (BP) — The acceptance of bivocational ministry is increasing in the Southern Baptist Convention, but not as quickly as the need for dual-career ministers, according to several SBC officials.

"The image of bivocational ministers is being lifted," said Dale Holloway, program consultant for bivocational ministries at the Home Mission Board. "We're making progress, but it's much too slow."

Holloway contends one reason for the hesitancy of some Southern Baptists to embrace bivocational ministers is a misunderstanding of their background and training.

"Many people still see bivocational pastors as non-professional, eighth-grade dropouts, but that just isn't true," Holloway said. A denominational survey showed 37 percent of the 10,000 Southern Baptist bivocational pastors have 17 years or more of formal education. In addition, 38 percent were employed in secular jobs classified as "professional or managerial."

In addition to bivocational pastors, about 32,000 ministers of music are

part time, volunteer, or bivocational, as are thousands of ministers of education, youth, children, and other church staff members.

Bunch cited several reasons for the slowly growing acceptance of bivocational ministry. Sagging economics and population shifts in some areas have left many Baptist churches unable to pay the salary of a full-time pastor. These churches are finding their needs can be met by bivocational ministers, Bunch said.

Another factor is the feeling among some ministers that bivocational ministry provides greater financial security, Bunch said. Other ministers simply have other job skills they want to keep in use.

The contribution of bivocational ministers is vital to Southern Baptist church planting efforts, Bunch said, especially in newer convention areas.

"We have very heavy usage of bivocational pastors in Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, and Rhode Island," said Tom Moncrief, missions division director for the Baptist Convention of New England. "Our associate director of missions in

Rhode Island is attempting to approach church planting with bivocational ministry as his main strategy."

Despite the needs in newer convention areas, bivocational pastors are concentrated in the South. For example, more than 50 percent of pastors in Alabama are bivocational, according to Holloway.

"We're hoping some bivocational ministers will see this as a challenge," Holloway said. "There is a desperate need for church planters in the East, West, and North."

Bivocational pastors do face unique problems, such as balancing their secular careers and church ministries. They also have less time for ministry-related responsibilities, such as visiting, witnessing, and sermon preparation. Still, they bring unique strengths to their ministries as well.

"Bivocational ministry necessitates shared leadership within the church," Holloway said. "Church members are strengthened by becoming involved in ministry themselves."

Alford writes for BSSB.

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'91-92 BSU officers elected

These are the new officers of Mississippi Baptist Student Union. From left, they are Ed Abel, director advisor, Southwest Mississippi Community College; Renee Sappington, vice president, Mississippi College; Scott Marler, president, Co-Lin Community College; Melanie Groner, secretary, Mississippi State University; Gervaise Chuah, executive committee, University of Mississippi; Carolyn Peters, executive committee, Itawamba Community College; and Heather McCullar, executive committee, Blue Mountain College.

Not pictured are Larry Braidfoot, faculty advisor, provost and vice president of academic affairs at William Carey College, and John Gibson, pastor advisor, pastor of First Church, Greenwood.

Islam is on the move

The number of people praying to the Allah of Islam is increasing faster than the number praying to God in the name of Jesus. Of the world's 5.3 billion people, nearly 1 billion now are Muslims. Since the turn of the century, Islam has soared 468 percent worldwide, while Christianity has grown by 315 percent.

Muslims comprise the majority in some 40 countries — and they are increasing eight times faster than the populations of such developed countries as the United States.

"Islam challenges the very heart of Christianity in denying the deity of Christ," said Pete Dunn, a Southern Baptist media worker in the Middle East. Muslims also believe that someone other than Christ died on the cross and that the Koran has superseded the Bible as God's authoritative word to mankind.

The death and destruction so-called Christian crusaders inflicted on Muslims centuries ago still fuel friction between the two faiths.

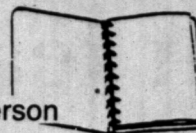
Muslims also know an open commitment to Christ will bring harsh resistance from relatives and the community. Anyone who leaves Islam breaks "the most sacred ties of family, tribe, nation and brings upon himself social ostracism, being branded henceforth as a traitor," one missionary noted. "Freedom of religion is an idea foreign to Islam." One Muslim man in Kenya states, "I have no son," to anyone who asks about his son who dared to believe in Christ.

"Islam is a challenge," acknowledged Frances Fuller, a Southern Baptist publications worker in the Middle East, "but it's not the enemy. Satan is the enemy competing with us for the souls of men. The lost are his victims. Could Islamic renewal be God's way of making us notice these people who were lost long before they scared us?"

— News Briefs, FMB, SBC

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson



Technocrats

Unprecedented progress in technological innovation is the hallmark in the waning years of the second millennium. Every year we are reminded that we stand at the dawn of a new era. I've lived through so many of these dawns I find myself yearning for the still waters and green pastures.

Like it or not, ready or not, Megatrends 2,000 is knocking at the door. Awesome challenges and technical advancement are in the offing and you go with the flow or the steamrollers flatten you. One tech-bound "aficionado" observed, "If the auto industry had made progress to match the computer industry in the last 30 years, a Rolls Royce would cost you \$2.50 and get 2,000,000 miles per gallon."

In the book *Dying for Change*, Leith Anderson says that "baby boomers hold a disproportionate influence over our society — from our cola to our churches. In fact, their influence is even greater than their numbers. They consume 51 percent of all goods and services in America; and 81 percent of American journalists are baby boomers, bringing their perspectives and prejudices into almost everything others read and see in the news."

This fact manifests itself in our small talk. Let me get with my peers, and we talk about a new cure for

baldness, cherry-flavored Geritol, or finding a good buy in cemetery lots. Not so with the convertible auto-lovers. They are talking "my new PC, faxing the figures to France, or running a graph in four colors and three dimensions."

The so-called baby boomers (born between 1946 and 1964) seemingly are experiencing a new hunger for religion. Baby boomer churches are growing. Moreover, an authentic realization: the church that is not reaching baby boomers will die. They are reachable and responsive with a healthy respect for culture and eventually traditions.

Newsweek accused the boomer church of practicing "salad-bar spirituality;" sacrificing gospel truth for something for everyone. The apostle Paul said he became "all things to all men" but some churches are not willing to go after the boomers. Adjustments cause great difficulty, fields white unto harvest are out of focus, and a church fails to see the opportunities. The boomers were raised in a generation that questioned the establishment and challenged it at every intersection. Change was a way of life and they thrived on it.

Today many boomers are disappointed, disillusioned, and living on the border of despair. The optimism and affluence of this country's mid-

years led them to expect much, and high hopes have been shattered on the rocks of realism. They are crying for hope, the rush to the flag in the Iraqi war being a prime example. They ask that church programs fit man, not tailor man to fit church programs.

The boomers, who have entered wholeheartedly into the kingdom, provide amazing spiritual energy translated into some unique ministries. It's people they are interested in, not legalism. A Chinese proverb says: "He who sacrifices his conscience to ambition burns a picture to obtain ashes."

In the long run, they will have little regard for the church which compromises convictions just to reach people. They will love the church willing to change methods in order to reach people. This type of church is growing, and there are hundreds of boomers looking for it. It may mean changing Sunday School to Monday night, moving the Wednesday evening activity period to Saturday morning, or the whole church taking a day to build a house for a homeless family.

Today the hope of the church is the boomer generation. We must seek to understand the concerns and interest of this energetic group, tap into it, and train and equip the leaders of tomorrow's church.

A SURE GRIP FOR THE FUTURE



Because he lives

In some ways it was like other funerals. There were pallbearers, a body, and sorrowful family and friends. However, the body was in a foreign casket made of African mahogany. The congregation came from foreign countries, several states in the U.S., and from many places in Mississippi. Dot Pray played the organ as the people gathered.

There were pastors. I saw Milton Scott of Morton, Bill Webb of Meridian, Clarence Cooper of Grenada, Sonny Adkins of Forest, and John McCall, Mississippi College. Missionaries came in: James Foster of China and the Philippines; Raymond Kolb of Brazil; Charles Deever of Africa; Larry Cox formerly of Burkina Faso, and others I did not see. WMU was represented by women from across the state, including Mrs. Owen Cooper who, along with her late husband, has encouraged hundreds of missionaries. Laymen came. I saw Farno Green from Ruth, and Ron Kyzar, whose brother and family are missionaries in Costa Rica.

Stephanie Bethea was playing "Amazing Grace" on the flute when Lynda Bethea's family came in. Ralph Bethea still had his left arm in a sling and his face bore the marks of the struggle with the highway robbers. Ralph III, the oldest son, Joshua, 13, Luke, 12, and Lizette followed in a pretty pink dress. A pink ribbon, tied by hands other than her mother's, was in her hair.

The combined choir of First Church, Jackson, and Morrison Heights Church of Clinton sang "Lift Up The Lamb." Frank Pollard, First Church, Jackson, speaking on behalf of the family, expressed appreciation to the Kenya government and police and to the host of Kenya churches. Joseph Maisha, pastor of Ushindi Baptist Church in Mombasa, brought greetings and expressed sympathy from the Kenya government and the churches.

Everyone stood to sing "Have Faith In God." Ralph's good arm was around 9 year old Lizette. Joshua's arm was around his father. The entire family seemed to be drawing strength from each other, as well as from the Lord.

John Lockhart of First Church, Richmond, Texas, Ken Alford of Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, and James Draper of First Church, Euless, Texas, prayed, read scriptures, and spoke of the blessings received from crusades in Africa and long friendships.

Frank Pollard spoke of Lynda Bethea as being an encourager like Barnabas, a servant like Dorcas, and a Martha serving in the kitchen. Among Lynda's last words, "They just need Jesus," expressed her heart's desire.

Draper mentioned that it could well be a pivot in world missions inspiring all of us to tell those we know about Jesus. Missionaries, pastors, and Christian workers would realize anew God's claim and priority in our lives. The entire service had a positive note underscoring a firm belief in the resurrection and the life.

David Clippard, Sarasota, Fla., led the closing prayer. The family and congregation joined hands and sang "Because He Lives." The funeral service was over; the memories remain.

Guest opinion . . .

The Southern Baptist umbrella

By George E. Meadows

In the closing address to the Baptist World Alliance, June 25, 1911, George W. Truett said, "Thank God, the nations of the world are sending us many of their noblest sons and daughters . . . along with that number comes a vast alien force which shall put a strain upon American institutions . . . that shall try us to the last desperate degree. 'Wide open and unguarded stand our gates . . . O Liberty, . . . is it thus well to leave the gates unguarded?' " Prophetic words!

"In God We Trust;" "One Nation Under God;" investigation of these historic statements reveals the God of the Bible — the Lord Jesus Christ. Framers of the Constitution and of the Bill of Rights, greatly influenced by Baptists, designed a nation founded upon Christian principles with religious freedom for all. Could it be that those historic words have metamorphosed into the "unknown god" to whom the citizens of Athens had erected an altar?

Could Truett possibly have had in mind Southern Baptists as he uttered those carefully chosen words? A Baptist, bedrock, Bible doctrine is the priesthood of the believer. The New Testament knows one High Priest — Jesus Christ. Through him each Christian has access to the Father. Each Christian is a priest unto God. Attempts to push the priesthood of the

believer to doctrinal independence for each Christian forces a strait-jacket upon Christianity that cannot stand the test of biblical examination. Acts 2:45 declares, "... they continued steadfastly in the apostle's doctrine." Nearly the entire fifteenth chapter of Acts is devoted to settling a doctrinal controversy.

Even a casual glance at church history reveals that Baptists have always gathered New Testament scriptures together in "Confessions of Faith," "Articles of Faith," and "Church Covenants." The Baptist Faith and Message stands as the current concise biblical statement of what Southern Baptists believe.

William Carey, considered by many as the father of modern missions, heard a Baptist preacher say, "When God wants to convert the heathen, he will do so without your help or mine." Baptists listening to the Lord of the church never let the misguided brother deter them. Alexander Campbell, a Baptist preacher, decided that baptism was essential to salvation and when he could not lead astray the masses of Baptists, he founded the Church of Christ.

Recently, a young man, with great potential, speaking as home missions guest in our church declared, "Fundamental Baptists believe that baptism by immersion is essential to salvation." In a recent edition of the

Baptist Record, an article declared that two Mississippi Baptist Convention-affiliated churches are receiving members who have not been baptized (immersed). Recently, members of one of our Southern Baptist churches in the metropolitan area of Jackson shared how their pastor serves the Lord's Supper to the bride and groom during the wedding ceremony. The above pastors have referred to themselves as "moderates."

Recently, my wife and I visited in the home of prospects for our church. We felt so welcome. At a point in our conversation, the lady of the house said, "I taught Sunday School, from Baptist literature, in the Episcopal church for 15 years. The priest knew it and did not care." My immediate response was, "If you unite with our church, you cannot teach Episcopal literature."

Many today speak of non-denominational churches. There are none. The non-denominational become "The Non-Denominational Denomination." A tragic picture is given in Revelation 17 of a "church" anxious to please and receive everyone, but did not endeavor to please the Lord. "O Liberty . . . is it thus well to leave the gates unguarded?"

Meadows is pastor of First Church, Florence.

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Pastors study medical insurance for small churches

DALLAS (BP) — A special committee, comprised mostly of pastors of small churches, has concluded without a change in Southern Baptist polity there can be no true group medical plan for small Southern Baptist churches.

Annuity Board President Paul W. Powell created the 12-member committee in the fall of 1990. A. Earl Potts, former executive director-treasurer for the Alabama Baptist State Convention, was chairman.

Powell asked the committee "to determine whether there is any area

of the Church Life and Health Program of the Annuity Board to which group underwriting principles and administration may be applied."

Creation of the committee was prompted by Powell's desire to have representative participants' direct input into possible ways to slow the need for increasing premiums in the Church Comprehensive Medical Plan.

After three all-day meetings in Dallas, with individual research by members in 10 states, the committee concluded without compulsory participation of churches and their

employees there can be no group plan for churches with fewer than 10 employees.

Generally, a group plan offers lower rates than an "association" plan, such as the church medical plan. Group plans have compulsory participation of all or a great majority of eligible persons. The compulsory participation is more likely to ensure that there are enough healthy people to pay the cost of claims for the sick.

The smaller the group, however, the more risk there is for a few large claims to have a major impact on

rates. Though an association plan may have thousands of participants, the right to move in and out of the plan disrupts the risk spread and costs the plan excessive claims. This is the case in the church medical plan.

Though the Church Comprehensive Medical Plan has more than 24,000 participants, it is not a true group because participants have the right to get out at will.

Anyone who is employed by a Southern Baptist church for 20 hours a week can apply for coverage. Evidence of good health is required to

get into the church medical plan. But the plan never has cancelled or individually raised the cost to a participant who has high or frequent claims.

That commitment by the Annuity Board has resulted in a growing percentage of participants who have at least one family member covered who is uninsurable. It is estimated that as many as 5,000 covered individuals would be unable to secure coverage elsewhere.

The committee found nothing in any state exactly matched the Annuity

(See **INSURANCE** on page 4)

The Second Front Page

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Associated Baptist Press names Floridian editor

WASHINGTON (BP) — Greg Warner, 36, associate editor of the Florida Baptist Witness, has been named the first full-time editor of Associated Baptist Press.

His unanimous election to the post of executive editor was announced by Charles Overby of Washington, chairman of the board of directors of ABP.

Warner will assume his new duties May 1 and maintain his headquarters in Jacksonville, Fla.

A native of Oneida, N.Y., Warner is a 1976 magna cum laude graduate of Florida Southern College in Lakeland, Fla., where he grew up. He received a master of divinity degree from Southwestern in Fort Worth, Texas, in 1980 and a master of arts degree in journalism from the University of North Texas in Denton in 1985.

The foundation for Associated Baptist Press was laid July 7, 1990, after a meeting of the Southern Baptist Press Association, the organization of Baptist state newsjournals, in Grapevine, Texas. The formation of ABP was announced July 17, 1990, im-



Greg Warner

mediately after the Southern Baptist Executive Committee fired Al Shackleford, director of Baptist Press, the official news service of the

Southern Baptist Convention, and Dan Martin, news editor for the service.

The July 7 meeting of the Southern Baptist Press Association had been called because the firings were imminent.

No formal action was taken by that organization at the time, but a group of Baptist state paper editors laid the foundation for Associated Baptist Press and chose its board of directors, which functions as an autonomous, self-perpetuating body.

The Southern Baptist Press Association endorsed the concept of ABP immediately after its formation. However, there is no structural connection between ABP and the press association, Baptist Press, or any Southern Baptist agency.

Warner, who was present when formation of ABP was announced July 17, said he felt at the time a keen desire to be a part of it.

"The Baptist Press firings made it clear to all Southern Baptists that freedom of the press, which had been

(See **EDITOR** on page 4)



Phillip and Sheila Marshall



Kenneth and Christine Mauldin



Mary and David Sills



Linda Smith

Foreign Board appoints seven from Mississippi

RICHMOND, Va. — Seven Mississippians were among 31 people named missionaries by the Foreign Mission Board, SBC, April 9 in Baltimore (Md.) Arena.

As missionary associates, Kenneth and Christine Mauldin will live in Guyana, where he will start and develop churches and they will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries. Since 1982 he has been pastor of Gentian Church, Columbus, Ga.

Born in Fairfield, Ala., Mauldin received the bachelor of science degree from Auburn University and master of divinity degree from Southwestern Seminary.

Since 1982 he has been an adjunct professor at Brewton-Parker College in Mount Vernon, Ga.

Born in Amory, Miss., Mrs. Mauldin, the former Christine Works, considers Columbus, Ga., her hometown. She is a teacher's aide at Clubview School in Columbus.

The Mauldins have three grown children.

Mary and David Sills will live in Ecuador, where he will start and

develop churches and they will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries.

Since 1988 he has been pastor of Lula Church, Jackson, Miss. Born and reared in Jackson, Sills is the son of T. D. Sills Jr. and Virginia M. Sills, both of Jackson.

He received the bachelor of arts degree from Belhaven College and expects to receive the master of divinity degree from New Orleans.

Born in Alexandria, La., Mrs. Sills, the former Mary Phillips, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hop Phillips of Jackson. Both consider Lula their home church; Briarwood Drive Church also was influential in their Christian growth.

She attended the University of Southern Mississippi. Currently she is an administrative assistant with Volunteers of America in New Orleans.

The Sillses have two children: Christopher Michael, born in 1983; and Molly Catherine, 1986.

Philip and Sheila Marshall will live in Thailand, where he will start and

(See **SEVEN** on page 4)

Total missionary force reaches 3,880

By Robert O'Brien

BALTIMORE (BP) — Trustees of the Foreign Mission Board re-elected a Kentucky pastor as chairman, appointed 31 missionaries, and heard a report on efforts to aid Kurds and other refugees of the Persian Gulf war.

The appointments, including 25 new missionaries and six reappointees, bring the total force to 3,880 missionaries assigned to 121 countries.

Hancock, noting that rumors around the Southern Baptist Convention indicate the board plans to move, said the study is being done to examine "facilities and resource management to maximize the stewardship of Southern Baptists."

"The word 'relocation' is not the important word," he said, noting other Southern Baptist agencies have done

studies of facilities. "The important word is 'stewardship' of resources and facilities."

"If we're where God wants us to be as far as our address is concerned right now, all of us ought to feel good if God says 'Stay there' after the study is over," Hancock said. "If we're not where God wants us to be on this corner or where he would want us to be in the year 2025, then we ought to be doing something to help those who will follow us to have some direction in getting where God wants us to be."

Parks announced Zeb Moss, associate area director for Eastern and Southern Africa, has been named to succeed Bill O'Brien as executive director of public affairs. O'Brien left the board March 1 to become director of a new global

strategies center in the Beeson School of Divinity at Samford University, Birmingham, Ala. Moss, 61, is a 32-year mission veteran whose work has ranged from media consultation to mission administration.

Trustees amended an action from their February meeting that would have eliminated, by attrition at the end of their present terms, 12 Virginia trustees elected to the board.

The amendment, which will be sent to the Southern Baptist Executive Committee and then to the Southern Baptist Convention for approval, makes it possible for any of the 12 eligible for a second term to be re-elected if the SBC chooses to do so. After that the positions would cease to exist.

O'Brien is on the staff of FMB.

MBC annuals mailed this week

Mississippi Baptist Convention 1990 annuals will be mailed out by April 24. Names and addresses of all churches will be included. Consult your 1990 SBC annual for names and addresses of church staff members.

May 2: Day of Prayer in Mississippi, nation

May 2 will mark the 40th consecutive observance of the National Day of Prayer. The theme of this year's nationwide celebration is "Prayer Works for America." President and Mrs. George Bush are serving as honorary chairmen of the National Day of Prayer.

President Bush in his 1990 National Day of Prayer Proclamation said, "I ask my fellow Americans to join with me in prayer for our children. Let us strive to help each of them to sink their roots into the rich soil of God's love for the beings he has made in his own image. Let us show them through prayer that we, too, like our nation's founders, seek shelter — our rock and our salvation — in the arms of God."

Following unanimous action of both houses of Congress, President Reagan signed a bill on May 5, 1988, making National Day of Prayer the first Thursday of every May.

Governor Ray Mabus signed a proclamation March 18, proclaiming May 2, 1991, as Day of Prayer in Mississippi and encouraged "each citizen to participate in his or her own manner and pray for unity of the hearts of all mankind."

"The National Day of Prayer Task Force of the National Prayer Committee, an independent, non-governmental group, would like everyone to recognize this day as a day to acknowledge our dependence upon God; give thanks for the many blessings our country has received through the years; recognize our need for personal and corporate renewal of moral values; seek God's guidance for our nation's governmental and community leaders; commit ourselves to the restoration of marriage and family commitments; and intercede for healing and reconciliation within our nation."

"When we pray, we are reaching for and employing a powerful resource — the God in which 98 percent of Americans claim to believe. May we reach out for the power and peace that God offers. Let prayer work in and for American families!" said Debra H. White, Laurel, coordinator of the National Day of Prayer in the state.

For more information and resources contact National Day of Prayer, Debra H. White, coordinator, Route 1, Box 908, Laurel, MS 39440 (phone: 601-428-4162).

Cooperative Missions, MBCB plan for prison ministry

A projected 1996 opening date for a minimum- to medium-security federal prison in Yazoo City has given new incentive to the Cooperative Missions Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. With the opening of the Yazoo City facility, the approximately 80,000 unchurched people affected by involvement with the Mississippi jail and prison systems will rise considerably, according to Neron Smith, consultant for Christian social ministries, Cooperative Missions Department, MBCB.

Smith divides those 80,000 into four audiences: prisoners, ex-prisoners, those who work with them (guards, wardens, etc.), and the families of all.

Presently, the Convention Board's only work in this area is with the families of prisoners, mostly at Parchman through Sunflower Association and director of missions there, Charles Jones. With three federal institutions, 17 work camps, and numerous community jails across Mississippi, the Cooperative Missions Department and the Convention Board see a need to reach these 80,000-plus people.

Although any announcement of a new ministry would be premature, approval was recently granted for investigation of the need for a jail and prison ministry. Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer, asked the Convention Board for that approval in

August 1990, when the scope of need began to be seen.

Smith has been challenged to come up with a training system for lay people and local churches. His dream, he says, for an effective jail and prison ministry "is a comprehensive one which speaks to all four (previously mentioned) audiences. The key would be to build a network of local churches, each of which would determine that it is their ministry."

The major stumbling block in getting this ministry out of "the dream stage" and into reality has been the lack of information about this very specific area of witness. According to Smith, who has undertaken the task of gleaning information on how to train witnesses for jail and prison ministries, the ultimate goal is "to extend the local church's contact with prisoners beyond just one hour a week. We can work through missions development to call out those who God intends to work in this area."

"We hope to incorporate literacy and other work, teach people to do the one-on-one witness that is required, and establish a network for this ministry," Smith says. "Education is the key right now."

The Cooperative Missions Department hopes to be able to announce a strategy for a new jail and prison ministry "by the end of the year," says Smith. "Its time has come."

Men in general judge more from appearances than from reality. All men have eyes, but few have the gift of penetration. — Machiavelli

The fate of civilization is like needlework. You can take it up and worry about it at odd moments. — Frank Sullivan

INSURANCE

From page 3

Board plan. While some competitive plans — especially preferred provider organizations — were found cheaper, no comprehensive plan was found that would allow ministers to take the coverage to all 50 states. Only the church plan guarantees this kind of "portability," a feature important to pastors and other staff members who may move frequently.

Addressing plan design, the committee singled out three changes on Jan. 1 it felt hurt the church plan's competitive position: increase of deductible, increase of co-payment limit, and capping of maternity benefits.

The committee recommended offering less costly options by July 1, 1991; consider tiering of rates if it would improve enrollment of healthy individuals; and restudying maternity as an extra cost rider.

Powell resists tiering of rates. "We have said that we won't cancel anyone's insurance because of high or frequent claims. Tiering of rates means raising the cost for the people who have claims. This year we raised the deductible and co-payment limit for everybody in an effort to shift a reasonable amount of the plan cost to people who benefit the most. This plan design change cut the monthly rate increase dramatically. Eighty-seven percent of our participants had increases of 10 percent or less on Jan. 1.

"Thirteen percent of those had no increase at all."

Powell added he was frankly pessimistic about one recommendation of the committee. The group asked the Annuity Board to explore with the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention the possibility of a convention-wide special offering to supplement the Church Comprehensive Medical Plan.

"In 1990," said Powell, "it would

have taken \$6.5 million just to break even. In order for a supplement to be really meaningful, it would need to be twice that. It would have taken a supplement of \$13 million or more to place us in a good competitive position with the commercial plans that are getting our young, healthy prospects. That's nearly 10 percent of the national Cooperative Program budget, and I doubt the viability of such an idea in today's economic and denominational climate. If you want to talk about a true subsidy, it would take a special offering of as much as \$50 million."

"The thing we desperately need," said Powell, "is for every church to properly care for the servants they have called to be their ministers. If every church would do what is right by their pastor, we wouldn't have a problem. There are thousands of preachers who can't afford our good medical plan or anybody's good medical plan because their churches don't provide enough support."

SEVEN

From page 3

develop churches and they will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries. Born in Bangkok, Thailand, Marshall is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Marshall of Baker, La. His father is a retired Southern Baptist minister. His parents were missionaries in Thailand for ten years.

While growing up he also lived in Natchez, and Baker.

He received the bachelor of science in business administration degree from Mississippi College and the master of divinity degree from Mid-

America Seminary in Memphis.

Born in Waycross, Ga., Mrs. Marshall, the former Sheila Thrash, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Thrash of Decatur, Miss. She grew up in Decatur and considers Clark-Venable Church there her home church.

She received the associate of arts degree from East Central Community College and the bachelor of science in business administration degree from Mississippi College.

She was a Baptist Student Union summer missionary in Arizona. Since 1990, she has been a typing instructor at Clarke College.

The Marshalls have two children: Laura Elizabeth, born in 1986; and Marilyn Kellie, 1987.

Linda A. Smith will live in Hong

Kong, where she will promote religious education and be involved in a variety of outreach ministries.

Since 1983 she has worked on the staff of First Church, Canton. For four years she was minister of youth and for three years was minister of education.

Born and reared in Jackson, she is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Smith. She considers Calvary Church, Jackson her home church.

She received the bachelor of arts degree from William Carey College, and the master of religious education degree from Southwestern.

All of the new appointees will go to Rockville, Va. in May for seven weeks of orientation before leaving for the field.

EDITOR

From page 3

such an important part of our denominational heritage, had been seriously compromised," Warner said. "The Executive Committee proved itself an unfit guardian of that freedom, which made establishment of ABP as an independent, non-aligned news service a moral and practical necessity."

The news service got underway last September through the auspices of Craig and Associates, a communications consulting firm in Nashville, with Dan Martin working as interim editor through the Craig office. The ABP board of directors took over operation of the service Jan. 15 and began the search for a permanent editor.

"The directors of ABP, and all freedom-loving Baptists, owe a debt of gratitude to Floyd Craig, Craig and Associates, and Dan Martin, who helped get the dream of ABP off the ground," said Don McGregor, executive director of ABP. "Southern Baptists will benefit from their committed efforts for years to come."

Since September ABP has been distributing news stories to secular and religious media throughout the nation by facsimile reproduction. The service plans to begin electronic distribution soon after the new office is opened in Jacksonville, according to McGregor, editor emeritus of the *The Baptist Record*, newsjournal of Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Warner will be ABP's first salaried employee. Plans call for an editorial assistant as quickly as that position can be filled, McGregor said, and for a system of correspondents to be put in place throughout the nation.

Warner became associate editor of the *Witness*, newsjournal of the Florida Baptist Convention, in 1985.

Previously he was news coordinator for the Radio and Television Commission in Fort Worth from 1980-85. He also has been a news writer for the public relations department of Southwestern Seminary.

He has been a member of the Baptist Public Relations Association since 1981. He has twice won that organization's grand prize for writing, the Frank Burkhalter Award, in 1988, 1990. He is the only state newspaper employee ever to win the award, which is rated by secular judges.

Joining Overby on the 13-member board of directors are two state Baptist paper editors, Julian Pentecost of Virginia and R.G. Puckett of North Carolina. McGregor, who is retired, was an active editor when the board was formed.

Another journalist, Raymond McDaniel, retired editor of the *Shreveport Times* and a member of the board of Louisiana's *Baptist Message*, is a board member, as is Carl Kell, professor of communications at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green.

Al Shackleford, the former director of Baptist Press and former editor of two state Baptist newspapers, serves on the board. Two pastors are James Pleitz of Park Cities Church in Dallas, and Donald Sharp of Faith Tabernacle Church in Chicago.

Four board members are women. Judy Strother of Mountain Home, Ark., is a partner in a law firm with her husband, Lane, who serves on the board of the *Arkansas Baptist News* magazine.

Catherine Allen is the director of the Sesquicentennial Commission for Samford University in Birmingham, Ala. Ardelle Clemons is a pastor's wife in Greenville, S.C. Anna Olive Bannister lives in Augusta, Ga.

Jack Brymer, editor of the *Florida*

Baptist Witness, commended his associate. "Greg Warner has distinguished himself as an articulate and courageous journalist not only in the Southern Baptist Convention but throughout the religious community," Brymer said.

In addition to Warner's journalism skills, Brymer praised his associate as "an outstanding churchman, family man, and a dear personal friend."

Warner and his wife, Cheryl, have been members of Hendricks Avenue Church in Jacksonville since 1986. The couple has two children — son Dane, 7, and daughter Shawn, 4.

Moss to succeed Bill O'Brien

BALTIMORE (BP) — Zeb Moss, 61, a missions veteran whose work has ranged from media consultation to mission administration, will succeed Bill O'Brien as executive director of public affairs at the Foreign Mission Board, SBC.

As head of the public affairs office, Moss will administer liaison relationships with other Southern Baptist Convention entities and direct the FMB's Global Desk. In the latter role he will monitor the status of global evangelization and work as liaison worldwide with other evangelical denominations that share the same goal.

Moss, a North Carolina native, brings 32 years of missions experience to his new role. Since August 1987 he has been the Richmond-based associate area director for eastern and southern Africa.

From 1974-87 he was stationed in Nairobi, Kenya, as media consultant for the board's Africa region.

Practical help for personal worship. . . A Daily Quiet Time

1. Have it in the same place and at the same time everyday.
2. Spend a minimum of 15 minutes.
3. Have a Bible, pen, paper with you (within 72 hours, we forget 95% of any impressions we receive. Remember, the shortest pencil is longer than the longest memory).
4. Make it a priority and do it at your best time, not during left-over time.
5. Come expectantly! You have an audience with the King of Kings.
6. Don't let dry days discourage you!
7. Remember the three parts of a quiet time:
 - a. Talking with God
 - b. Listening to God
 - c. Meditating on His Word.
8. As you read a verse, is there any . . .
 - ... example for me to follow?
 - ... command for me to obey?
 - ... error for me to avoid?
 - ... sin for me to forsake?
 - ... promise for me to claim?
 - ... new thought about God Himself?
9. As you pray . . .
 - Adoration*—reflect on His greatness, His majesty, and His sovereignty!
 - Confession*—make sure every known sin is acknowledged to God and forsaken.
 - Thanksgiving*—express your appreciation to God.
 - Supplication*—ask for the specific needs of others and yourself.
10. Don't substitute religious activity at church for your own personal daily quiet time.



START TODAY!!!

Board employees serve churches through prayer

By Anne W. McWilliams

"We want people of our larger Baptist family — in churches across the state — to know that we, the staff here in the Baptist Building, believe in prayer and stand ready to support them in prayer," said Julius Thompson.

Director of the Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Thompson is also chairman of the Bold Mission Prayer Thrust Coordinating Committee for the state.

Last year, on Oct. 5, a new prayer room was dedicated at the Baptist Building. "It has been the dream of our executive director, Bill Causey," said Thompson, "that prayer would be a significant part of the life and work of the Baptist Convention Board staff, personally and as a Baptist Building family. Also we want churches to know we want to serve them through a prayer ministry, as well as teaching them mechanics and methods . . ."

Two ways have been suggested for receiving prayer requests from the churches. First, those who have cares,

burdens, or needs that they want to share may call anyone at the Baptist Building (968-3800) and share the requests. Every employee in the Building has been given a prayer request form on which to enter these requests. Then the forms are to be compiled in a notebook in the prayer room so that those entering the prayer room during each day may consult the prayer notebook and lift up prayers concerning the requests. Also the notebooks will have a section for praise for answered prayers.

Second, prayer requests from the churches may be shared with Convention Board personnel when they visit the churches to lead conferences or to serve in some other manner, throughout the state. They in turn will relay those requests to the prayer notebook in the prayer room.

Forty-five Baptist associations in the state have Bold Mission Thrust prayer committees. The associations are encouraging the local churches to establish intercessory prayer ministries.

Porter had some suggestions for those wanting to register early but who will face a long line.

"Don't stand in line at 4 p.m. on Sunday or at 8 a.m. on Monday . . . Come about 30 minutes later and you will register in about five minutes!"

Messengers must bring proper credentials from their churches, Porter cautioned. SBC registration cards are available from state convention offices (in some states they are available at association offices) and must be totally completed and signed. Where in Atlanta the messenger is staying should also be noted in case of emergencies, said Porter.

Churches having questions about the registration process can contact Porter at (615) 251-2181.

Hollinger is vice-president for Baptist Press.

Porter makes June SBC attendance forecast

By Herb Hollinger

NASHVILLE (BP) — Attendance at the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 4-6, in Atlanta may be down from recent record registrations if the predictions by Lee Porter, SBC registration secretary, are accurate.

Porter's forecast of 20,000 to 22,500 messengers would be larger than any previous convention prior to 1985, except Atlanta in 1978 when 22,872 registered. Dallas, in 1985, is still the record with 45,519, followed by Atlanta, 1986, with 40,987, and last year's convention in New Orleans which registered 38,403.

Porter's accuracy in predicting messengers counts has been impressive since his election in 1977. His predictions have been within 10 percent of the actual figures every year since 1978 with the exception of the record Dallas crowd.

Thursday, April 25, 1991

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5

MBMC'S CANCER PROGRAM: An extensive follow-up to improve patient care

By Jean B. May

Mississippi Baptist Medical Center has one of the largest caseloads of cancer patients in the state, with more than 1,500 new cancer patients and approximately 5,000 cancer-related admissions annually. Its cancer program recently was awarded another three-year approval by the Commission on Cancer of the American College of Surgeons. Four major components of the program consists of the Tumor Registry, the Multi-Disciplinary Cancer Committee, Cancer Conferences/Tumor Boards, and Patient Care Studies.

MBMC's Tumor Registry is a system for collecting information on patients and specific tumors and certain blood disorders. The registry maintains a complete data base, which includes the primary site, histology, stage of disease, therapy, and follow-up. New software obtained from the American College of Surgeons has enhanced data processing capabilities.

Primary function of the Tumor Registry is its lifetime follow-up of all patients registered. This is accomplished by following hospital readmissions and outpatient visitors, and contacting physicians and patients by letter or telephone. In 1989, the registry mailed 3,713 letters to facilitate accurate follow-up. This annual contact reinforces to the patient the importance of yearly medical exam and provides a means to evaluate treatment and survival trends. MBMC's follow-up rate exceeds the standard required by the Commission on Cancer of the American College of Surgeons.

The Tumor Registry also contacts MBMC patients' physicians monthly for current health reports on their patients. The information collected is combined and used by physicians for educational purposes, evaluation of patient care, treatment, and results.

"The Tumor Registry helps us a great deal," said William Wetzel, MBMC pathologist and 1989/1990 chairman of MBMC's Cancer Pro-

gram. "It assists in documenting quality control and allows us to see how we stand nationally with our treatment results. The tumor registrars do an exceptional job of processing the information to make it quickly available to the physicians."

MBMC's registry staff consists of four registrars. All are accredited medical room technologists, and three are certified tumor registrars.

The Multi-Disciplinary Cancer Committee of MBMC meets monthly and is responsible for planning, initiating, and stimulating Cancer Program activities. Primary responsibilities include professional guidance for the Tumor Registry/Tumor Boards, coordination of new approaches in the management of cancer patient care, performance of patient care studies, and participation in the hospital's quality review program.

The Tumor Board, an element of the Multi-Disciplinary Cancer Committee, is a patient-oriented conference which meets monthly. Through this board, medical, surgical and radiation oncologists, diagnostic radiologists, and pathologists are able to share their expertise in case presentations. This forum is open to the medical staff and case presentation is encouraged.

Educational conferences are held for medical staff, students, and other health care professionals at the hospital weekly. Some of these conferences are oncology-related with such speakers as MBMC's medical staff, as well as guest speakers.

Patient Care Studies is another important component of the Cancer Program, consisting of a thorough review of cancer patients' care. These site-specific studies include cancer-related treatments and the results of these treatments.

Mack Furr, MBMC oncologist and current chairman of MBMC's Cancer Program, said, "I think we have one of the best cancer programs in Mississippi. Here we can extract any

data we need to help with the treatment of our patients and to see how we compare on a national level. MBMC's Tumor Registry plays a very important role in the Cancer Program by collecting, processing, and retrieving data to make the program work."

"I feel what we do as registrars is not just paperwork," said Pam Barlow, MBMC tumor registrar supervisor. "It is gratifying to be able to accumulate and process information that can be beneficial to a physician in the treatment of a patient. That is the main purpose of the Tumor Registry — and the Cancer Program as a whole — to provide information that will ultimately help our patients."

May is director of public relations, MBMC.

Off the Record

Wife: "You look tired, dear. Did you have a bad day at the office?"

Husband: "I'll say I did. I took an aptitude test, and believe me, it's a good thing I own the company."

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SBC Forum considers

ASHEVILLE, N.C. (BP) — The possible dissolution of the SBC Forum will be a focus of its eighth annual meeting scheduled June 3 at the Wieuca Road Church in Atlanta.

The Forum is one of a number of meetings scheduled by Southern Baptists prior to the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 4-6, in Atlanta.

Although the program will not be available until May 1, notice of the possible dissolution of the group was needed to fulfill legal obligations of the Texas non-profit corporation, SBC

Forum, Inc., said John H. Hewett, president and pastor of First Church of Asheville, N.C.

The Forum was created at the SBC meeting in Kansas City, Mo., in 1984. The group will consider disbanding because its purpose has been met by the convocation of The Baptist Fellowship, said Hewett. The Fellowship is a coalition of moderates who plan a convocation in Atlanta in May. Fellowship spokesmen have indicated they felt displaced in the Southern Baptist Convention.

MBMC receives full three-year accreditation from JCAHO

Mississippi Baptist Medical Center received notification on Feb. 28, 1991, of full three-year accreditation from the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations.

JCAHO is a private, not-for-profit organization created by and composed of health care professionals. It is governed by representatives of five nationwide health care organizations: the American College of Physicians, the American College of Surgeons, the American Dental Association, the American Hospital Association, and the American Medical Association.

JCAHO accreditation is dedicated to promoting quality health care services, and is purely voluntary. MBMC has been accredited by JCAHO since it first began offering its program some 40 years ago.

MBMC's Executive Director, M. Kent Strum said of the accreditation, "Participation in this process demonstrates to our patients and our community our sincere commitment to evaluate and improve our services, as well as our dedication to maintain professional standards for quality patient care."

Letters to the editor

Need free hymnals?

Editor:

Our church has about 100 Baptist Hymnals which we would like for some church or organization to have. Some of the hymnals are pretty rough and others are in very good condition. All of the hymnals are of the 1975 edition.

Our telephone number is (601) 254-7701. The books are free. Recipients may pick them up or pay postage to have them shipped.

Robert M. Moore Sr.
Morgan City Baptist Church
Box 256
Morgan City, MS 38946

First love

Editor:

A most interesting and challenging book, *Rediscovering Your First Love*, by Ronald F. Bridges, has really touched my life and ministry. My heart is saddened as I think of all the controversy going on in our beloved convention.

Bridges brings to mind in several ways that we have lost our "first love" of our relationship with the Lord and got involved in many lesser things. He compares our present situation to the church of Ephesus, "But I have this against you, that you have left your first love."

Bridges eloquently states the following: "Jesus declared earlier that the greatest commandment is to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength (Mark 12:29, 30). Therefore, loving God should be the top priority for every believer. But the people of the church at Ephesus had drifted from their original devotion to Him. They became preoccupied with theological matters. Not that those

matters were unimportant, but the overemphasis placed on them caused the people's love and devotion to God to take a back seat. They became so concerned with theological matters that the warm, intimate devotion they once eagerly expressed to God faded into meetings, debates, and theological discussions. And the Lord rebuked them for it."

I believe strongly that most, if not all, of our bickering and carrying on will cease if we will come back to our "first love," and get on with the business of breaking through the barriers and help extend God's Kingdom. Now is the time for us to return to "our first love" and share that love with others.

David Hulsey
Kosciusko

Source of mailing list?

Editor:

This week I received a letter from Jerry Falwell asking for a contribution to the permanent endowment fund of Liberty University. I certainly have no intention of contributing to a non-Southern Baptist institution.

However, I am very puzzled by the fact that he had my name. I wonder what the source of this mailing list was.

Paul H. Leber Sr., pastor
High Hill Church
Neshoba County

Since addresses are bought and sold on the open market, it is difficult to know. THE BAPTIST RECORD'S addresses cannot be given to others without an executive decision — Editor.

Are you impatient with God's timing of answered prayer?

By Farno L. Green

"... for there will be a time for every activity, a time for every deed" (Ecl. 3:17 NIV).

Before World War II, an 18-year old enlisted on his birthday in the 155th Infantry Regiment of the Mississippi National Guard for college money. After three years, the unit was called to active federal duty at Camp Blanding, Fla. The soldier, then a sergeant, requested a transfer to the U.S. Air Corps, which needed physics and math candidates for communications aviation cadets. The transfer was delayed eight months while the sergeant impatiently prayed — and fellow soldiers prayed with him in tent prayer meetings — that his education be used. If his prayer timing had been answered, he could have been in the Japanese Bataan death march with some of the cadets graduated in the first class.

The sergeant was later transferred and became a communications officer with a medium bomb group in Algeria, North Africa. New aircraft and lack of developed flight crew training courses in communications and emergency procedures caused difficulties on initial strategic missions in the Mediterranean war. On the edge of a makeshift airfield, a cockpit and communications compartment trainer was built to resolve flight problems. Details and photographs were sent "through channels" to Air Corps Headquarters in the States. Within two months, duplicated trainers and procedures were used in the States to train air crews for Africa and Europe.

Recommendations made from North Africa are used by the U.S. Air Force now almost 50 years later.

The Lord held up the prayer for transfer of the sergeant to the Air Corps, until eight Air Corps skills and innovative personalities were assembled in the same unit so the procedures could be developed. Each helped to save lives in World War II, during peace time, and also no doubt in the recent Mid-East war.

The Lord's plan for the events of man is much greater and more detailed than we can comprehend. We should not be impatient with God's timing. We need to be patient, happy, and willing to carry out every activity and to perform every deed whenever his leading tells us, "Now is the time!"

Farno L. Green resides at Ruth, Miss.; he is deacon and Sunday School director, Shady Grove Church, Lincoln County.

Radio-TV begins operation of faith and family network

By Madge Hammond

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — The Radio and Television Commission began operation of FamilyNet, a broadcast television faith and family network April 1. The network previously was owned by Old Time Gospel Hour and Liberty Broadcast Network of Lynchburg, Va. Both entities are a part of the ministry of Jerry Falwell.

The purchase was authorized by RTVC trustees in January.

The purchase will multiply the outreach of commission programming, said RTVC President Jack Johnson. "FamilyNet is accessible to some ten to twelve million not now being reached by the RTVC's ACTS network," Johnson said.

"That means we can more than double the potential for preaching the gospel to the people of America."

A number of RTVC programs began airing on FamilyNet April 1, Johnson said, and others will be added later. He said "COPE," a live call-in counseling program, will be carried on both networks each afternoon.

"Sunshine Factory," a children's program produced by RTVC personnel, will be on FamilyNet, along with

"The Baptist Hour" and "Invitation to Life," a weekly evangelistic service.

The \$200,000 cash paid for FamilyNet came from funds reallocated by trustees from the 1990-91 fixed asset budget of the commission. No other cash payments are to be made, and no borrowed funds were required to complete the purchase, Johnson said.

As a part of the purchase, RTVC officials said, the "Old Time Gospel Hour" will be carried daily on both FamilyNet and ACTS. The air time used on the two networks will be charged against a \$3 million program time credit that will be amortized at the regular rates charged other programmers on FamilyNet and ACTS, the officials said. At present rates, they said, the credit would be used completely in less than three years, and if rates are increased in the future, the increases would be passed along to "Old Time Gospel Hour."

The RTVC trustees will consider Restated Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws for FamilyNet at a scheduled meeting April 9, according to Johnson.

"We will recommend the elected commissioners also form the board of directors of FamilyNet," Johnson said. "We want it clearly understood that both FamilyNet and ACTS are under the control of trustees elected by and responsible to the Southern Baptist Convention. There will be no outside directors, and no one other than the duly constituted commission trustees and personnel will have any control over the activities of the Radio-TV Commission, ACTS, or FamilyNet," Johnson said.

Both networks will carry programs produced by many different church and denominational programmers. "The Radio and Television Commission is committed to the Great Commission," Johnson said. "Our assignment is to proclaim the gospel and we take that mission very seriously," he added. "The purchase of FamilyNet will open a door of opportunity that could enable us to touch as many as 25 percent of the television households in the United States, and that is a challenge we must meet," Johnson concluded.

Hammond writes for RTVC.

Congress addresses pro-life issues

By Paul G. Jones II

title 10 funding.

Federally funded clinics are engaged in a campaign to flood Congress with mail calling for the elimination of pro-life Title 10 regulations. All members of Congress must hear from pro-life constituents who support the prohibition of counseling for abortions at federally funded clinics. Letters and calls should also urge adoption of the Smith-Mollohan parental notification bill. Your Congressman and

Senator can be reached by writing to the address below or by calling (202) 224-3121 (Capitol Switchboard).

The Honorable _____
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC 20515.

The Honorable _____
United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510

Jones is executive director, treasurer, Christian Action Commission.



Crash survivor welcomed back to China

Southern Baptist teacher Erin Thomas is greeted by several students at Jia Ying University in Meixian, China. Thomas returned to teaching at the school in early March after recovering from injuries she suffered in the crash of a hijacked Chinese jetliner last October. The crash claimed the life of her friend and fellow English teacher, Mary Anna Gilbert. When Thomas walked into her former classroom March 4, students burst into spontaneous applause. "God is not finished with me yet; I still have work to do," said Thomas. "I want to finish what I started." (BP photo by Charlie Wilson)

capsules

HMB REPRINTING BOOK ABOUT WORLD WAR II CHAPLAIN — FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — A book about a Southern Baptist chaplain who survived the Bataan Death March and nearly four years as a prisoner during World War II is being reprinted to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Southern Baptist Chaplains Commission. The book, "Days of Anguish, Days of Hope," written by Billy Keith was first released in 1972 and recounts the life of Army Air Corps Chaplain Gen. Robert Preston Taylor. The reprinted edition will be distributed to all Southern Baptist chaplains. After the war, Taylor served as Air Force chief of chaplains and later as director of development at Southwestern Seminary.

WRITERS' WORKSHOP ANNOUNCED AT SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD — NASHVILLE — "Writing, like any creative skill, is learned by imitation," said Bob Hastings, a retired editor and freelance writer who will be the featured speaker at the annual Sunday School Board's writers' workshop to be held July 15-18 at the board's Church Program Training Center. Designed for persons interested in learning and practicing writing skills, the workshop includes sessions on writing as well as opportunities to have writing evaluated and to learn about writing opportunities for Sunday School Board publications. The workshop begins at 6 p.m. Monday, July 15, and concludes at 4 p.m. Thursday, July 18. A registration fee of \$63 should be sent to: Church Program Training Center, P.O. Box 24001, Nashville, Tenn. 37203.

THE SECOND ANNUAL LOUISIANA STATE SACRED HARP SINGING CONVENTION will be held May 3 and 4, at New Orleans Seminary. This event will begin with a complimentary meal at 6:30 Friday evening followed by singing, and will continue on Saturday from 9:30 to 2:30 with a noon break for the traditional "Dinner on the Grounds." Admission is free. For further information, call the seminary music office, (504) 282-4455, ext. 3226.

ACTS AWARDS CEREMONY — FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — The sixth annual American Christian Television System Awards Ceremony will be televised live nationwide on ACTS from Travis Avenue Church in Fort Worth, Texas, April 25. The 8 p.m. (CDT) broadcast will feature singer-author Anita Bryant, who will host the event, and contemporary Christian artist Wayne Watson, who will provide musical entertainment. Also providing music will be Jubilation Brass, a sacred/gospel instrumental group from Howard Payne University, Brownwood, Texas, which will present a concert.

POPE PREDICTS 'NEW MISSIONARY AGE' — ROME — Pope John Paul II expects the "dawning of a new missionary age" with the fall of "oppressive ideologies and political systems" around the world. "God is preparing a great springtime for Christianity," the pope recently wrote. "God is opening before the church the horizons of a humanity more fully prepared for the sowing of the gospel." He claimed only the Catholic Church "possesses the fullness of the means of salvation," but acknowledged the role of Protestants in world evangelization. He told bishops to focus missionary efforts on Asia, Africa, and Latin America, and exhorted them not to make theological compromises with Islam, Buddhism, and Hinduism. "Proclaim without fail Jesus Christ who is 'the way, the truth, and the life,'" he said.

MISSIONARY KID GIVES ALL — SAN JOSE, Costa Rica — Her heart aching for people made refugees by warfare in the Middle East, 10-year-old Kitty Marie Thornton sent \$32.88 to the Foreign Mission Board. "Here is all my money to help them," wrote Kitty Marie, the daughter of Southern Baptist missionaries Harold and Susan Thornton in Costa Rica. In 1990, Southern Baptists of all ages, through their gifts for overseas hunger and relief work, enabled the board to spend nearly \$7.5 million on 286 projects in 62 countries. Southern Baptist ministries involved agricultural and water resource development, food distribution, vocational training, and health care. The 1990 total topped 1989 gifts by \$2.3 million.

FMB 'PRAYERLINE' GETS NEW NUMBER — RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — The Foreign Mission Board's toll-free "PrayerLine" is getting a new number: 1-800-395-PRAY. The PrayerLine has received more than half a million calls since it was begun in January 1987. Calls averaged about 12,000 to 13,000 per month for most of 1990, but topped 20,000 in December and 22,000 in January of this year. Calls always increase during the weeks leading up to the Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions, Drumwright said, but callers also were concerned about Southern Baptist workers in the Middle East because of the Persian Gulf crisis.

NINETEEN COUNTRIES SENDING MISSIONARIES — RICHMOND, Va. — Baptists in 19 countries who relate to Southern Baptist missions are sending out their own foreign missionaries. The Baptist groups, who now support 301 missionaries in 63 countries, are in Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, France, Germany, Japan, South Korea, Mexico, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, the Philippines, Portugal, South Africa, Taiwan, the United Kingdom, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

STUDY TOUR IN ISRAEL: NEW ORLEANS — A Travel Study in Israel has been planned for May 26-June 9, by New Orleans Seminary, with an optional extension for a two-week excavation June 9-23. The tour with an emphasis on history and geography will be led by Dennis Cole, assistant professor of biblical archaeology, and Dan Browning, of William Carey College. Lectures will be given on site and in the hotels in the evenings. For more information, contact Dennis Cole, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, 3939 Gentilly Blvd., New Orleans, La., 70126, or call (504) 282-4455, ext. 3248.

B'hood to sponsor missions day camp

ATLANTA (BP) — A missions/sports day camp will be provided for boys and girls who have completed grades 1-6 and whose parents are attending the Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta in June.

The missions day camp will provide a missions education program and sports activities for the children of messengers during all daytime sessions of the convention as follows: Tuesday 8:15 a.m.-5 p.m., Wednesday 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., and Thursday 8 a.m.-11:20 a.m.

The cost is \$8 per day per child. This covers a lunch for Tuesday and refreshments each day, as well as accident insurance and transportation.

All registration must be done at the missions day camp booth near the messenger registration area in the Georgia World Congress Center.

Registration will be from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. (See **BROTHERHOOD** on page 8)



CLOSE-KNIT KURDS — These two Kurdish family members belong to a close-knit, fiercely independent tribal mountain people, possibly descended from the Medes of Old Testament times. (BP Photo)

Baptists will aid Kurds, Iraqis

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Joining worldwide efforts to ease suffering in the Middle East, the Foreign Mission Board is sending \$130,000 in relief funds to the region.

Hungry families in Iraq will receive food purchased with \$105,000 in Southern Baptist funds. And \$25,000 has been set aside for suffering Kurdish refugees at Iraq's border with Turkey. Additional relief allocations are likely, according to Tim Brendle, who heads the Foreign Mission Board's Persian Gulf Response unit.

"The doors of opportunity are opening in the Gulf region," Brendle told the agency's trustees April 10 during their meeting in Baltimore.

The board is exploring ways to enable Baptists from throughout Asia to travel to the Persian Gulf for ministry, Brendle said. Particularly in Iraq and Jordan, Asian Baptists likely will find greater openness than Baptists from countries that warred with Iraq over its invasion of Kuwait, he said.

Meanwhile, in Bahrain, a Christian survey team continues to seek visas to enter Kuwait, Brendle reported.

The initial \$105,000 hunger relief allocation for Iraq will provide food for some 1,000 families for two weeks, John Cheyne reported from Amman, Jordan, where he contacted evangelical representatives from

Baghdad. Each food package will contain milk, eggs, flour, rice, sugar, and tea.

The \$25,000 in relief funds for Kurdish refugees along the Iraq-Turkey border will be used to meet needs signaled by a Christian survey team which visited the region April 17.

Southern Baptists who want to participate with special donations above their regular church giving may send funds to: Middle East Relief, Foreign Mission Board, P.O. Box 6767, Richmond, VA 23230.

Needs in Iraq alone are so great that the United Nations and Red Cross estimate \$280 million will be needed.



Faces and places

by Anne Washburn McWilliams



Trees I have loved

A persimmon tree was the first I learned to climb. Its low branches, like a ladder, made it easy for even my 4-year-old legs.

A chinaberry tree held the rope swing that Daddy made for my sister Betty and me. As we pumped higher and higher, purple petals scattered on the ground below.

A mighty pecan tree has had its limbs blown away in a tornado, broken in icestorms, sawed off by an electric company, and chewed off by squirrels, but it still stands a few feet from Mama's kitchen window. It has shaded an outdoor table for many a family picnic.

My favorite holly tree is far taller than the now deserted house where Grandma and Grandpa lived. It's the biggest holly tree I have ever seen. My two grandmothers planted it together when they were children, at least 100 years ago. It has blessed the world with beauty and furnished berries and evergreens for countless Christmas decorations.

Hickory saplings, when I was 8, made good horses. My playmates' older sister would climb to the treetops and swing them over so that we smaller ones could climb on for a ride. We raked dried straw from underneath pine trees to build the "walls" for our playhouses in the woods. We plucked leaves from an elm tree and "stitched" them together with sticks to make hats and belts. We

ate the fruit of a wild crabapple tree.

A magnolia tree on my college campus offered privacy for a special date. Hardly even a moonbeam could filter through its thick glossy leaves to the bench beneath.

Squirrels build their nests up toward the clouds in the top of the tremendous oak by my patio and come leaping and running down the trunk when I call them, past the red-headed woodpecker that's busily knocking at its dinner.



Besides the 10 other gigantic oaks in my yard, there's a beech. I've planted three redbuds, a maple, a dogwood, an apple, a wild cherry, and a cedar. W.D. planted a catalpa, for fishing worms. All are full of birds and squirrels, but I never have enough trees. I miss the sweetgums we had on North Hines Street in Jackson, and their turning to red-gold torches in October. I need a weeping willow. In case I ever got a harp, I'd have somewhere to hang it.

This week, between Earth Day, April 20, and Arbor Day, April 26, I'm planting another tree. I'm going to let it be a hardwood, perhaps a cypress, a slow-growing, long-lasting legacy for the future, something that will cleanse and cool the earth and be of more value than many dollars. I probably won't live to see its maximum height, but it will give me joy to imagine how it will look.

And I'm going to send \$5 to Global ReLeaf to plant a tree in a heritage forest in memory of Daddy for Father's Day. Global ReLeaf is sponsored by the American Forestry Association, Washington, D.C. (A heritage forest is public land that has been abused and is being replanted. I'll call ReLeaf at 900-420-4545 to arrange for the planting.)

Praise the Lord from the earth... fruitful trees, and all cedars... Praise ye the Lord (Psalm 148:7, 9, 14).



Officers elected for MBSA

Serving as officers of the Mississippi Baptist Secretaries Association for 1991-1992, left to right, are: president, Vivian Taylor, Wayne Association; first vice president, Linda Kittrell, Gulf Coast Association; second vice president, Betty Chesteen, Calvary Church, Greenville; and secretary-treasurer, Connie Evans, Mississippi College.

Others serving as area representatives for the coming year are: area 1, Ruth Brown, Northwest Association; area 2, Carolyn Daniel, Ashland; area 3, Ruth Smith, First Church, Grenada; area 4, Elizabeth Godfrey, Fairview Church, Columbus; area 5, Mary Ray, Rankin Association; area 6, Cynthia Howell, Leake Association; area 7, Liz McGraw, Woodville; area 9, Gary Daymond, Gulf Coast Association; Baptist Building, Vonda Clower, MBCB; and chaplain, Betty Anne Bailey, MBCB.

Names in the news

David Satterwhite of Carthage is available for pulpit supply, interim, or pastorate. He may be contacted at 1010 Pinehill Drive, Carthage, MS 39051 or call 267-8740.



Graham

Fairview Church, Fulton, will license Terry Paul Graham to preach the gospel, April 28, 6 p.m. The message will be brought by Graham. Gene O'Brian is pastor.

Mr. and Mrs. John R. Sproles will be honored on their 50th wedding anniversary, May 4, from 2-4 p.m., at 317 Fairground, Kosciusko. Sproles is pastor of Peeler Memorial Church in Attala County.

Center Ridge Church, Yazoo City, will honor H. Bryan Abel and Mrs. Abel with a reception following the evening worship service, April 28. This marks Abel's sixth year as pastor. Refreshments will be served.

Classical music is the kind that we keep thinking will turn into a tune. — Kin Hubbard

Revival dates

Siloam Church, West Point: May 3-5; youth revival, "Love of Another Kind," Friday and Saturday, 7 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Stephen Hooks, youth minister, Open Door Baptist Church, Tuscaloosa, Ala., speaker; youth ministry team, Open Door Church, music; Avery Jones, pastor.

First Church, of Runnelstown, Petal: April 28-May 3; Bill Nobles, guest evangelist; services, Sunday, Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., worship, 11 a.m., dinner in fellowship hall, noon, followed by afternoon service, no evening service; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Acker Smith, minister of music, Oral Church, music; Henry Freeman, pastor.

38th Avenue Church, Hattiesburg: April 28-May 1; Sunday, 11 a.m.; 7 p.m. each evening; Mon.-Wed., noon luncheons; W. D. "Step" Martin, a Mississippian and a graduate of William Carey College, now pastor of Calvary Church, Shreveport, La., guest speaker; Boyd Tweedy, minister of music, Calvary Church, Petal, and president of Rainbow Ministries, Inc., music; G. Wiley Abel, pastor.

Bayou View, Gulfport: May 1-5; services 7 p.m.; evangelists are Bobby Perry, director of missions, Gulf Coast Association; Joe McIntyre, pastor, Grace Church, Gulfport; Mark Rathel, pastor, Bay Vista Church, Biloxi; and Greg Martin, pastor, Commission Road Church, Long Beach; Gary McCormick, pastor.

New Harmony Church, Union County Association: April 28-May 3; services, Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; weekday services, 7 p.m.; Trent F. Grubbs, interim pastor, preaching; Eric Barron, minister of music at Hillcrest Church, New Albany, music.

First Church, Ridgeland: April 28-May 3; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., noon and 7 p.m.; Dennis Brunet, Midway Church, Pensacola, Fla., evangelist; Charles Fowler, First Church, Ridgeland, music; Ed Griffin, pastor.

East Morton Church (Scott): April 28-May 1; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Billy McKay, pastor, First Church, Belzoni, evangelist; Donnie and Cynthia Stuart, Pelahatchie, music; Tommy May, pastor.

Center Grove Church, Meridian: May 1-5; services, Wed.-Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m., 6:30 p.m. and dinner on the grounds; speakers for Wed., Chester Carlisle, Mt. Zion Church; Thurs., Phil Griffin, Causeyville Church; and Fri.-Sun., Ed Holloman, pastor.

Hebron Church (Grenada): April 28-May 1; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. nightly; Laney Haley, evangelist; Bill Wilson, music.

Temple Church, Big Point: April 28-May 5; homecoming, Sunday; services, Sunday, 10:55 a.m. and 7 nightly; Ernest K. Sadler, executive director of Jackson Association, evangelist; Danny Langley, Temple Church, Hurley, music; Larry W. Dees, pastor.

Ridgecrest Church, Madison: April 28-May 1; William A. (Billy) Smith, a native of Louisville and now pastor of Ridgeway Church, Memphis, evangelist; Byron Cutrer, minister of youth and music, First Church, Orlando, Fla., music; services, Sunday, 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 6 p.m.; weekday services, soup and salad bar (no charge), 11:30 a.m.-12:35 p.m., and 6:30 p.m.

DOMs conference theme is "Seeing the Invisible"

ATLANTA (BP) — Fellowship, support, learning, and an interaction forum are descriptions of the 30th annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Conference of Associational Directors of Missions June 2-3 at the Hyatt Airport Hotel, Atlanta.

"Seeing the Invisible" will be the theme, according to Russell Bennett, president and executive director of the Long Run Baptist Association, Louisville, Ky.

The gathering of directors of missions has been a "supporting and learning time," said Bennett. "It meets the needs of DOMs and serves as a forum for interaction with SBC agency officials."

Bennett will address the group Sunday afternoon followed by a banquet hosted by the Annuity Board. Also bringing a featured address will be Milton Ferguson, president, Midwestern Seminary, Kansas City, Mo.; Dennis Swanberg, director of missions, Hot Springs, Ark.; and theme interpretation, Henry Blackaby, director of spiritual awakening, Home Mission Board, SBC. Leon Young, director of missions, Meridian, will speak on "Seeing Our Heritage" and Wayne Gullett, state DOM president, Calhoun City, will lead the closing prayer.

Floyd Collins, director of missions, Kingstown, R.I., will preach in the Sunday morning worship service. Special music throughout the meeting will be brought by the "Singing DOMs."

BROTHERHOOD

From page 7

til 5 p.m. on Monday, June 3, and during daytime convention sessions on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Church dress codes must be met in order to board the bus: no short

shorts, no tank tops, and only soft-soled recreational shoes — with socks.

Parents will pick their children up promptly at 5 p.m. on Tuesday; 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday; and 11:20 a.m. on Thursday at the conclusion of the daytime sessions.

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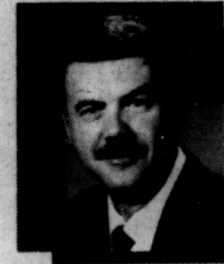
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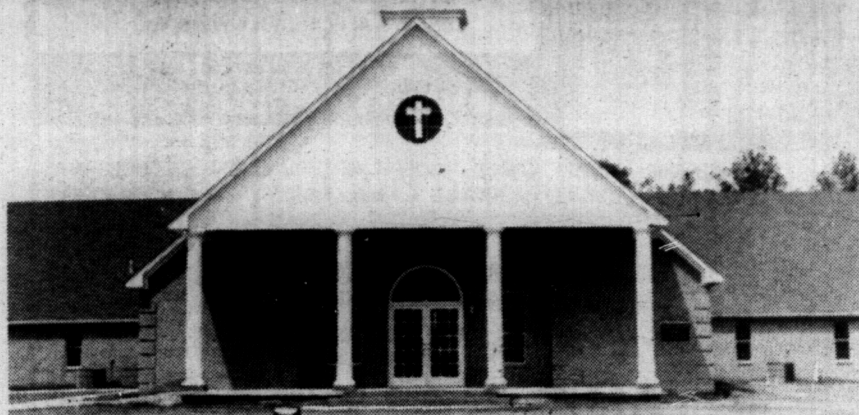
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Just for the Record



Faith Church, West Point, will hold dedication services for its new facilities, shown above, April 28. Jimmy D. Carr, Faith's first pastor, will preach the morning worship, 11 a.m. A covered dish luncheon will be served in the fellowship hall. The dedication service will follow at 2 p.m., with Gwin Middleton speaking. Ben McDaniel is pastor.

Eastside Church, Pearl, will have a lay-renewal weekend, starting Friday evening at 6:30 and going through Sunday morning service, April 26-28. Dub Herring of Picayune will be the coordinator. Programs will be offered for each age group beginning with four year olds. Dennis E. Dunn is pastor.

Senior adult corner

Parkhill Church, Jackson, will observe Senior Adult Day, April 28. E. N. Sullivan from Florence will be the guest speaker for the 11 a.m. worship service with a covered dish lunch following. There will be a time of singspiration at 7 p.m. Jimmy Sellers is pastor.

Crowder Church, North Delta Association, will have homecoming and a dedication service for its Family Life Center, April 28. Homecoming services will be 10 a.m. and dinner will be served in the Family Life Center at noon. Truman Scarborough, pastor, First Church, Coffeeville, will be the guest speaker. Wayne and Peggy Baggett of First Church, Quitman, will have charge of the music. Harvey Sewell is pastor.

BMC ministerial alumni to meet

Blue Mountain College Ministerial Alumni will meet for a day of fellowship and inspiration on April 26. The day will begin at 9:30 a.m. with registration in the student center and a chapel service in the auditorium at 10 a.m. with the student body. Lunch will be served and a time of inspira-

Discipleship Training Conference set for July 11-13

Theme of the summer Discipleship Training Conference at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly is "Train to Disciple All."

The conference, set for July 11-13, will feature leadership conferences in all phases of Discipleship Training including preschool, children, youth, adult, general officers, and associational DT directors and directors of missions.

Randy VonKanel, pastor of First Church, Hattiesburg, will be preacher for the conference. Mike Harland, minister of music at Crossgates Church, Brandon, will be music leader.

Other faculty members include Luell Smith, Glenn Smith, Jerry Chapman, and Margaret McArthur, all from the Sunday School Board; and Kenneth Mooney, director of Discipleship Training for the Louisiana Baptist Convention.

A church recreation conference will also be on the schedule.

Reservations may be made directly to Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Henderson Point, Pass Christian, MS 39571. A reservation deposit of \$30 per person or \$60 per family is required.

tion and worship will be held with special music by BMC Chorale. The featured speaker will be J. Garland McKee, director, Evangelism Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. The activities will close with the annual golf tournament.

Staff changes

Jerry Lennep has accepted the call to pastor Franklin Creek Church, Jackson Association, effective Jan. 1. The Pascagoula native previously served as pastor of Oral Church, Lamar Association.

New Prospect Church, Brookhaven, has called Gene Douglas as pastor. A native of New Hebron, he attended Co-Lin Junior College, William Carey College, and is a graduate of New Orleans Seminary.

He was the recipient of the Outstanding Small Church Pastor of the year 1989, which is an award given to two pastors each year in the state. He previously served Palestine Church in Simpson County and Union Church in Covington County.

Enterprise Church, Mississippi Association, has called a pastor recently. He is Odell Tebo of Lamar County. He has been out of the pastorate for about a year due to a heart problem. Tebo has served pastorates in Mississippi prior to his illness. His mailing address will be Route 5, Box 38, Liberty, MS 39645, upon his arrival on the field the first of April.

Calvary Church, Silver Creek, has called Jimmy Thornhill as minister of music and youth, effective March 3. A native of Tylertown, he is a student at Clarke College. His previous place of service was Silver Springs Church in Pike Association.

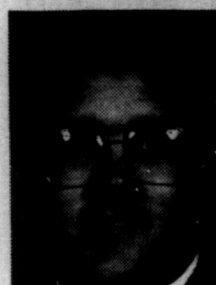
Pearlhaven Church, Lincoln Association, has called George Linton Jr. as minister of music.

Mt. Pisgah Church, Sandhill, Rankin Association, has called John Price as pastor, effective March 25. A native of Jackson, he received his education at Mississippi College and Southwestern Seminary. His previous place of service was Spring Hill Church in Copiah Association.

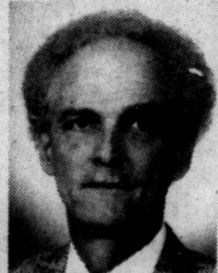
William (Bill) H. Barnes Jr., has resigned as minister of music at First Church, Waycross, Ga., to accept the call at Island View Church, Orange Park, Fla., as associate pastor music/education. He has served churches in Mississippi and is a graduate of Southwestern Seminary.

Wayne Crenshaw has accepted a call as pastor of Temple Church, 815 McCluer Road, Jackson, effective April 7. Crenshaw resigned as pastor of the Cross Roads Church, Pelahatchie, on March 31, after serving there for six years.

Memorial Church, Perry Association, has called Robert H. Rogers as pastor. His former pastorates include Sunrise Church (Lebanon), Harperville (Scott), and Richmond and Priceville churches (Lee). He served for over 11 years as an army chaplain and about 15 years as a National Guard and Army Reserve.



Douglas



Barnes



Rogers

Thursday, April 25, 1991

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9

Mission minded college students needed for summer staff positions.

Camp Lakeside in Tallahatchie County, MS is currently seeking to fill three positions for five weeks, July 5 - August 9, 1991.

Camp Director: \$160 per week, room and board, prefer 21 year olds with at least 1 year experience on camp staff, lifeguard certified encouraged.

Camp Counselors: \$100 per week, room and board, 1 male and 1 female needed, must be at least 18 years old, prefer lifeguard certified, experience with children.

Send resume to: Aubry Martin, chairman, Box 337, Tutwiler, MS 38963 (601) 345-8307.

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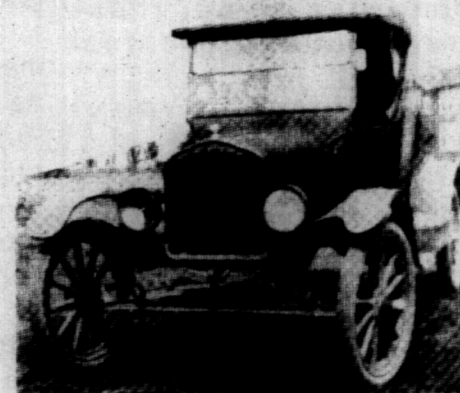
For more information contact: Shepard Ministries (214) 570-7599 or Youth Office, FBC, Jackson, MS (601) 949-1954.



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Homecomings

Harmony Church, Cruger (Carroll): April 28; 10:30 a.m.; dinner on grounds at noon; 1:30 afternoon singing; no night services; Alvin Kimes, Hattiesburg, guest speaker; Tim Watkins, Greenville, guest singer; cemetery association annual meeting in afternoon; Ken Gower, pastor.

Puckett Church (Rankin): Cemetery Association and memorial service; April 28; begins at 10 a.m.; covered dish at noon in the new fellowship hall; no night services; Eugene Banes, Centerville, guest speaker; Richard Sparks Jr., music; Guy Henderson, interim pastor.

Bond Church, Neshoba Association: April 28, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Claud Huguley, former pastor, message; gospel singing group, The Disciples, will sing in afternoon; lunch will be served.

Goss Church, Columbia (Marion): April 28; 11 a.m.; covered dish in fellowship hall at noon; 1 p.m. singing; no night services; William Wright, pastor, speaker.

Sherman Church, Sherman: May 5; the program starts at 10:30 a.m. followed by dinner and singing in the afternoon; Mike Smith is pastor.

Carey Chorale will present Mozart's "Requiem"

The William Carey College Chorale's spring concert will be a presentation of the "Requiem" of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. This major choral work will be performed on April 25 at 7:30 p.m. in Smith Auditorium of Thomas Fine Arts Center.

The Chorale is conducted by Jeff McLelland, assistant professor of music. Lori Rhoden, instructor of piano, is accompanist. Soloists are faculty members Josephine D'Arpa, Frederica Braidfoot, and Eugene Winters, and young artist in residence Leonard Day. Admission is free.



BMC chorale to present REQUIEM, April 28

The Blue Mountain College Chorale and Orchestra under the direction of David R. Gilmore will present REQUIEM by John Rutter, a British composer, April 28 at 3 p.m. The concert will be held at Lowrey Memorial Church of Blue Mountain. The REQUIEM is a recent work which is a mixture of traditional Latin requiem text and English texts from scripture and other sources. The

work is also somewhat protestant in nature, focusing on the salvation of Christ and not on the Day of Judgment.

Gilmore, conductor, is assistant professor of music at BMC, having joined the faculty in 1986. Soloists for the performance include Kandace Williams of Tupelo and Tina Barkley of New Albany.



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LETTERS FROM CAREY - Using Our Spiritual Resources

Jim Edwards, President Volume 2, No. 3

"For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then shall I understand fully, even as I have been fully understood. So faith, hope, love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love."

I Cor. 13:12-13 (RSV)

Every day of our lives, God gives us spiritual, human and financial resources to use in our pilgrimage with Him. He challenges us to be good stewards of those gifts. The 12th and 13th chapters of First Corinthians emphasize our individual and corporate gifts from God. Some people who God brings into our lives become models of spiritual giftedness. As a small caring family, each of our spiritual role models is important to us at William Carey College. This week's letter is about three of our role models whom we lost through death this past year. Sometimes it takes losing the spiritual gifts of others to fully understand

their future importance to you.

DR. DAVID GRANT -GIFTS OF FAITH

David Grant's prophetic Biblical preaching, MBC leadership, and deep faith will be remembered by many, many Mississippians. As Drs. Bill Causey and Jim Futral said in Dr. Grant's recent memorial service, his living faith introduced thousands of people to his Lord, Jesus Christ.

Near the end of his ministry Dr. Grant was a Carey Trustee for 16 months, and chaired the search committee that asked me to be President of the College. David Grant may be remembered most at William Carey for his faith in prayer. One of our last 1989 Letters from Carey was written by Dr. Grant about his faith in prayer. Many of us believe that our 1989 Prayer Retreat led by David Grant was a turning point in solving our institutional crisis.

He challenged us to use this unique spiritual resource - personal and group prayer - to petition God to lead William Carey College and our nation to a spiritual awakening.

As we recently began a new Prayer Emphasis for 1991 we praised God for the faith gift of prayer which David Grant modeled for us to use to strengthen the College and further His Kingdom.

DR. JOE ROBERTS -GIFTS OF HOPE

Joe Roberts also served the College for 16 months. He joined us as an Executive-in-Residence and Professor of Communications in the fall of 1989, and drove from Laurel to Hattiesburg to teach "those good students" at Carey College. Dr. Roberts died during heart surgery in December of 1990.

Dr. Roberts set the same high Christ-like standards for others that he established for himself. He also focused on learning from the positive

aspects of our difficulties, and he always encouraged students and colleagues when they most needed to see hope in mirrors dimly.

Someone said at a memorial service for Dr. Roberts that when you were in his presence, he always made you feel good about yourself and your God. Like Barnabas, the New Testament encourager, Dr. Joe Roberts' ministry of hope was a resource that God placed in our midst. As we plan for a positive and challenging future, we will build on the hope gifts from our colleague and friend, Joe Roberts.

DR. JOHN D. THOMAS -GIFTS OF LOVE

John D. Thomas, a long-time Hattiesburg business and community leader, was a Carey Trustee for 16 years. Dr. Thomas died a year ago this month following a lengthy struggle against cancer. Although my relationship with John D. lasted only twelve months, his modeling

to me of Christ's love was awesome. Because of his gift of Christ's love, his love for "our kids," church and family, and the College came straight from the core of John D.'s being. Dr. Thomas always challenged people in a loving straight-forward manner to do what was right.

Even while suffering great pain, John D. Thomas telephoned me late at night to offer important insight and understanding to our deliberations. The spiritual resource of God's love, modeled so keenly through the love gift of Dr. Thomas, continues to lift us toward a fuller understanding of what we are as an instrument for His Kingdom.

In reality, the faith, hope, and love of each of these three men are "heart gifts" - from them and their God who gives to us all we need for each day until we see Him face to face.

P. S. Next week - Using our human resources.

Sharing suffering and comfort with others

By Ruth N. Allen
II Corinthians 1:1-11

There is an old Chinese parable in which a mother lost her only son. She was completely consumed with her sorrow. Her grief seemed more than she could bear. Finally, out of desperation for peace, she went to a wise old philosopher. He promised to bring back her son if she brought him some mustard seeds; however, the seeds must come from a home that had never experienced sorrow. Going from house to house, eagerly she began her search. In every home she learned at one time or another, sorrow had already paid a visit. She discovered that sorrow is common to all. No home or person is exempt from sorrow or grief.



Allen

We worship a God of compassion and comfort (v. 3). To look at Jesus is to look into the loving heart of God. Did Jesus ever see a need, suffering, sorrow, sickness, or death and his compassion not go forth? Compassion issued forth from him like a steady stream during his entire earthly ministry. Isaiah states, "He was a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief,"

(53:3). Compassion means to "suffer with," a feeling that leads one to help another.

Our word for comfort is "comfortis" which comes from the Latin and means "to brave together." This comes from the Greek word "parakaleo," which means "to call along side." It is the same word which Jesus used when he told his disciples he would send the Holy Spirit, whom he called the "Comforter." God has the interest of his children at heart and offers sustaining comfort to all who seek it.

There is a tremendous need for comfort. Bishop Edwin Holt Hughes was at one time pastor of a suburban Boston church of 800 members. After serving two years, he was asked to preach a sermon on "comfort." Then he wondered how much his sermon was needed. Afterwards, he took his membership list and tabulated the number of families that had suffered some unusual grief or distress during the past two years. Perhaps it was a death in the family or serious illness, or a major disappointment or financial reverses or any one of many things. To his astonishment he found that no less than eighty percent of his families had been in

need of comfort within two years. Sooner or later everyone will feel the need for the comfort only Jesus can bring.

Suffering qualifies a person to comfort another (v. 4). There are occasions when sympathy may be offered without actually experiencing the ordeal of another; however, one who has suffered identical circumstances qualifies as competent to comfort truly. God comforts those who suffer and provides the assurance which can be shared with those who suffer and sorrow.

The suffering of Jesus supplies an overflow of comfort to his followers; this suffering, in turn, overflows into the lives of others (v. 5). Jesus gave his life and became the ultimate example for handling suffering. He offers an overflowing abundant supply of comfort for his followers to dispense to others.

Followers of Jesus must be willing to endure stress in order to provide comfort for others (vv. 6-7). When Francis Xavier was about to leave Rome for his great missionary work, he was overheard in his sleep saying, "Yet more, O Lord, yet more." Later he told his friends he had dreamed that night that the Lord showed him all he must suffer — weary journeys, dangers, deep rivers to cross, savage lands to explore, sickness, tortures, death; but at the same time showed him lands he would bring to Christ and

the vast numbers that would be saved. His soul was so aroused he cried for more — more suffering if it meant more souls.

The more people are comforted the more they are able to comfort (vv. 8-10). Comfort received from God determines the amount of comfort to be shared with others. A personal experience of suffering, sustained by comfort from God, increases the effectiveness of shared comfort.

The more suffering, the more one relies on God; the more reliance, the more one rejoices and offers thanks to God (v. 11). The ultimate of all suffering is the rejoicing and praise offered to God for comfort and consolation he gives to all who ask.

A. J. Gordon, a noted preacher, once said, "I have long since ceased to pray, 'Lord, have compassion on a lost world.' I remember the day and the hour when I seemed to hear the Lord rebuking me for making such a prayer. He seemed to say to me, 'I have had compassion on a lost world, and now it is for you to have compassion.'"

Pray today that God will use you as an instrument of comfort. Resolve to seek out at least one person this week who needs comfort and be willing to share any suffering in order to provide comfort.

Allen of Jackson, is the wife of Judd Allen, pastor of Ogden Church, Bentonla.

Redemption: What's really in it for me?

By Benny Still
Ephesians 1:15-23

Have you ever wondered if you had all that was coming to you? Most of the time when we hear that question, we think of our mental attitude, for that's generally to what the question refers. In the context of this week's lesson it refers to the benefits that are ours as believers in Jesus Christ through the redemption he has given us. In these verses Paul is trying to help us discover the benefits that God has provided us in salvation and to show us how to identify the power of God demonstrated in Christ.



Still

In verses 15-16 Paul expresses to the believers at Ephesus that ever since he heard of their faith, he has been giving thanks for them and remembering them to the Lord in his prayers. We would do well to follow Paul's example in remembering our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ to the Lord when we pray too. In sharing some of the ways the Lord has blessed my family and me, I've made the statement: "I'm amazed at what the Lord is doing!" The other day, someone asked me, "Why are you amaz-

LIFE AND WORK

ed at what God is doing? He's not doing anything more than what he promised he'd do for you!" I got the message. How thankful we should be for the many wonderful ways the Lord blesses our lives — after all, he is faithful to keep his promises, isn't he?

Also in verse 15 Paul makes reference to the love the Ephesians showed to all the saints. Believers should strive for a balanced response to redemption which links the vertical (faith in Jesus) with the horizontal (love of others).

As we practice our faith in Christ by loving the brethren, we can benefit from divine wisdom and revelation to receive a new insight into the nature of spiritual realities (v. 17). How similar to the song, "Open My Eyes, Lord," are the words of Paul in verse 18. He prays that the eyes of our hearts might be enlightened so we might know the hope to which we have been called, the riches of his glorious inheritance, and the incomparable power that is available to us as believers (v. 19). To know that we are saved from hell ought to be motivation enough to serve — because we know that our eternity is secure in "the place he has gone to prepare for us" (John 14: 1-6). The earth is my home.

For eternity I deserved hell; but, Heaven is my destination based on what I've chosen to do with Jesus in my life. What a thrill to be saved and sure! All believers can have that confident assurance! Has it ever dawned upon you that as God's peculiar possession, he chooses to display his power and might through us (v. 18)? I don't even have to eat my Wheaties to have at my disposal unlimited power, might, and the strength of God active in my life. It's mine as a benefit of redemption and salvation through Jesus!

Talk about heritage and hope! Southern Baptists have a long heritage. Our heritage has been given us by God, himself. With an eternal heritage like that, how can we not display our hope to the world?

Last week I asked if we really knew what we have in salvation. This week let's take it a step further: Do we really comprehend the significance of the person of Jesus Christ and the power that raised him from the dead (vv. 19-20), or, have we come to grips yet with the power that exalted him and enthroned him at the right hand of God (v. 20)? The same power that has accomplished those feats has also given him universal dominion over all (vv. 21-22) including headship (lordship) over the church (vv. 22-23). If such power rightfully belongs to the Lord Jesus, I wonder why we

sometimes try to usurp his power and authority for our own gain. Let us be reminded that any such "gain" that we might derive will most certainly be "short-lived." I guess we have a tendency to allow the devil to get the upper hand in our lives, no — I'm sure of it!

Folks, we are the body of Christ, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way (v. 23). Maurice Manning, a Methodist friend, addressed a group of ministers last week at a meeting encouraging us to support Soil and Water Conservation Sunday (April 28). He said, "It is seldom that I get to address men who are directly employed by God, supervised by God, and whose work yields eternal results. The ponds I build, the seeds I sow, the suggestions I make will ultimately pass away, but what you do in the work of God is eternal." That's pretty plain, huh? Is God your boss?

The benefits we receive from life in Christ are in direct proportion to our allowing God to fulfill his purpose in and through us. Working together builds pride, character, and a sense of community. We are encouraged by Paul to work together. If we can ever lose the "what's in it for me?" attitude, our churches will be able to start doing something on earth for heaven's sake!

Still is pastor, Poplar Springs Church, Mendenhall.

David's desire to build God a house: God accepts pure motivations

By Jerry Vardaman
II Sam. 6:1-7:29; I Chron. 13-17
and I Kings 8:17-19

According to I Kings 8:17-19, David fervently desired to build the Temple of the Lord in Jerusalem, but God denied him this action.



Vardaman

Here we note that God commends David for the thought — even though David did not carry out the action of Temple construction. There is a great lesson for us today in this passage of Scripture — and in the entire story of David's attempts to make Jerusalem the worship center for the Lord.

David's Introduction of the ark into Jerusalem (II Sam. 6; I Chron. 13) David attempted twice to bring the ark of God into Jerusalem, and his first attempt was an utter failure since he did not use Levites according to I Chron. 15:2: "... no one but the Levites may carry the ark of God, for the Lord God chose them to carry the ark of the Lord and to minister to him forever." When David used those whom God had appointed for the work of carrying the ark, he met with success and accomplished the task (II Sam. 6:16-19; cf. I

Chron. 15:25-16:43).

David's Desire to Build God a temple at Jerusalem (II Sam. 7:1-29; I Chron. 17:1-27)

David became possessed with guilt that he himself dwelt in a lovely house, but the Lord's dwelling on earth was limited to a tent. He spoke with Nathan about this matter, and at first the prophet approved of his desire to build God a temple. Then the Lord reversed Nathan's decision (even though Nathan said at first that the "Lord was with" David in the plan — see II Sam. 7:3); thus Nathan had to return to David and tell him that his son would build the Temple, and not David himself.

David as a lesson that God looks on our hearts and motives (I Kgs. 8:17-19)

We need to hear again the key passage, especially one verse: "Whereas it was in your heart to build a house for my name, you did well in that it was in your heart..." (I Kgs. 8:18). We live in a time when everything is concentrated on outward show and actions. The Pharisees in Jesus' time were concerned about keeping 613 commandments and thought, thereby, that God was pleased, but Jesus pricked their bubble of outward show and religious pretense by reminding them (and us) that God

knew their hearts. They loved money, but Jesus told the parable of the unjust steward who misused his master's money. When Jesus then said that we should also be concerned about giving all of the money we could to win the lost, they mocked Jesus (Luke 16:1-13). Jesus responded, "You are those who justify yourselves before men but God knows your hearts" (Lk. 16:15). God knows and accepts genuine worship, and he rejects worship done in a deceitful spirit. This is why the writer of Proverbs said, "... the sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord, but the prayer of the upright is his delight" (15:8).

Consider again the event of Jesus noticing the way that Temple giving was done in his day. A certain widow who had only two small coins (in value even less than one of our pennies) gave all that she had, and Jesus said that as God considered the matter she had given more than everyone else because she had given her utmost (Mk. 12:41-44; Lk. 21:1-4).

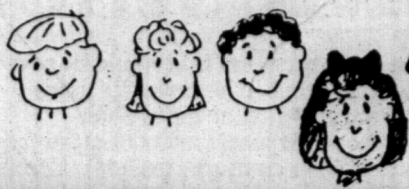
Remember what Jesus said about true religion, and undefiled, before God our Father, and that type which will be acceptable on the day of judgment (Mt. 25:31-46). Jesus said that those persons who love him and give to the needy, not even expecting to be rewarded, will be the ones whom the Lord treats mercifully when we stand before him.

In the parable of the workers in the vineyard, Jesus tells us about some workers who worked only for money (Mt. 20:1-16). He tells of others who trusted the landlord's character — that he would pay them decently. And their trust was not misplaced: the landlord paid them each a denarius (the usual pay), even for working part time. The emphasis here should be placed on motives. Some were faithful simply knowing that they would not be mistreated by the owner of the ground, from which they were gathering. God is faithful. We are to trust him when all else gives way and leaves us to question everything else. He is faithful, and those who trust him will, in the end, find him fully trustworthy. David did well in that he wanted to build a temple to God. God chose him to manifest grace through his life — by raising up a house for David, through whom, ultimately, Jesus, David's distant heir, was finally born.

Luke tells us that this promise was ultimately fulfilled, not in Solomon, but in Jesus our Savior — through nothing that David had done, but totally through the grace of God (Luke 1:32, 33). Christians can profit still more by realizing that Jesus saw himself as the new Temple (John 2:18ff.) and through the resurrection the ultimate fulfillment of this prophecy come to pass, with God raising up David's offspring.

Vardaman is professor of archaeology, Mississippi State University.

BIBLE BOOK



Shoe Strings

'the kid's fun page'



Created by

Rob Sauls
Darrell Vandergriff
Lib McCluskey

Help us name the ShoeStringKids. In the spaces below, give each person a name and age.

Mail this section to:
Darrell Vandergriff
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Franklin, TN 37064



Name _____
Age _____

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Age _____



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MEN IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

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Jesus
Philip
Paul
Thomas
Mark
Peter

Ananias
Demas
Timothy
Luke
James
Stephen

John the Baptist



Pen Pal Club

Hi!

My name is Molly Jeffcoat. I'm 11 years old. I live in McComb, Mississippi. I also go to church at First Baptist Church in McComb. I like swimming, drawing, reading, writing, playing basketball, and I love playing with animals. I would really like it if a boy or girl would write to me. I really, really, really, etc., want a pen pal. Please send a picture of you if you can.

Love,
Molly

My address is:
Molly Jeffcoat
3003 Delaware Extension
McComb, Mississippi 39648

Hi, my name is Amanda Deaton. I'm 9½ years of age. I go to First Baptist Church. Some of my hobbies are: swimming, dancing, gymnastics, singing, reading, and more. I would like a boy or girl to write me. Please send a picture or phone number if you can.

Love always,
Amanda Deaton
Rt. 2, Box 309
Tupelo, MS 38801

Hi!

My name is Teresa McNeil. I am 12 years old. I go to Leaf River Baptist Church. I would love for anyone to write me. My hobbies include swimming, playing the piano, reading, and going to church. Please send a picture. Bye.

Love in Christ,
Teresa McNeil

My address is:
Rt. 1, Box 129A
Loun, MS 39338

Hello!

My name is Rachel Kolb. I attend South Pontotoc Junior High School. I am 13 and in the seventh grade. My hobbies are going uptown, shopping, and talking on the telephone. I would appreciate a letter from a good Christian pen pal. I would like to have a picture also.

Your friend,
Rachel Kolb
Rt. 3, Box 216
Pontotoc, MS 38863

Hi!

My name is Mignon Nelson. I am 14 years old and I attend Christ Baptist Church in Greenwood, MS. Please write me and send a picture, if possible. I enjoy cheerleading, basketball, and playing softball. If you are a Christian boy or girl and are interested in having a pen pal, please write me.

Love in Christ,
Mignon Nelson

My address is:
604 Cypress Ave.
Greenwood, MS 38930

Hi!

My name is Jayne Blailock. I am 10 years old. My mom homeschools me. I live in Osyka, Miss. I want a girl or boy to write me soon. Please send a picture of yourself.

Love, Jayne
Rt. 2, Box 55A
Osyka, MS 38657

Inner cities called "Samaritas"

OMAHA, Neb. (BP) — The inner city is America's "modern-day Samaria," says a home missionary whose ministry revolves around the inner city.

Just as Samaria was avoided in biblical times, Duane McCormick says today's Christians "don't want to go to the inner city. They drive around it. They don't know what it's like to live in the ghetto."

After 23 years as directors of the Baptist Mission Center in Omaha, Neb., McCormick and his wife, Betty, say life in the ghetto can be a life of fear and frustration.

McCormick describes Omaha's inner city as a place where blacks,

Anglos and native Americans "live on the public dole." Single parent households are the norm.

"We've seen the second and third generation of families here. The common lifestyle is a parade of men in those homes. They accept that as normal."

In that environment, the McCormicks are role models. "It's not uncommon for children to say, 'I want to go home with you.' Occasionally they do."

McCormick tells of one family where the father was an alcoholic. The mother "was as tough as a tiger. She had to be. It was the only way she

could survive."

The couple had five sons and two daughters whom McCormick says "grew up in fear — fear of their father and their neighborhood." But four of the children went through the Bible program at the mission center. They became Christians and were baptized and are now leading productive lives.

Such success stories are rare, however. "We experience a lot of failure if you look at it from the eyes of the world."

Yet McCormick's commitment to his Samaria is as clear as his deep blue eyes. "I get discouraged, but I don't want to do anything else."

Young musicians festival draws 1,400

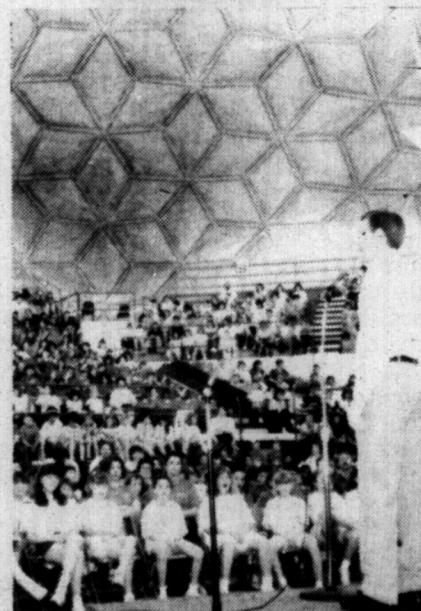


A group of Parkway, Jackson, youngsters relax outside MC's Coliseum.

The state Young Musicians Choral Festival drew over 1,400 participants to the Mississippi College campus for the April 6 meeting. There were 65 churches represented and 28 choirs were adjudicated in a Friday night meeting.

Bill Green, associate professor of church music at Southwestern Seminary, was the guest musician for the festival. The Young Musicians of North Oxford Church provided the drama characters, and Huey Dedman and David Eastland were clowning characters in a special feature.

The theme "Here Is My Life" provided for worship, special choral experiences, and "the way to salvation" skit. After the morning of features and rehearsals, the festival concert was presented in the early afternoon. Sarah Talley, consultant for preschool children, was the festival coordinator.



Bill Smith of Southwestern Seminary was guest musician for the state Young Musicians' Choral festival.

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